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Parking woes

Make the beach pleasant again. Page 2

Cancellation cancelled

NRE is back on this year's calendar. Page 3



INPORTANEWS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2016

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Homeward bound



Kristen Smith, animal care officer, feeds Percy, a newborn calf that was found near the train tracks in Nanticoke with the umbilical cord still attached. With his mother nowhere to be found, staff at the Humane Society were baffled as to how he got there. See more on page 2.







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Efforts hope to make Pleasant Beach pleasant

LAURA BARTON Postmedia Network

Port Colborne city council is doing what it can to help Pleasant Beach become pleas-

ant again Over the past several years. residents have been dealing with the consequences of a large number of beachgoers crowding onto the relatively

small beach. From garbage to lack of proper bathroom facilities to parking, there has been friction between residents and

Kristine Zwaagstra, resident and owner of By the Water Café and Catering situated near the entrance of the beach, said the beach is beautiful and people come to enjoy

But when there are close to a hundred cars, each packed with four or five people, that's

when things get out of hand. "It's tough for vehicles to get down to Pleasant Beach. because there really isn't a shoulder on that road," she said. "So there's pavement enough for a car to travel, but the shoulder to park on

- there isn't. So the cars are parked directly on the road," The reason they're parked directly on Pleasant Beach Road is because there is only a small area of parking at the accommodate eight cars parked on an angle.

The overflow parking is not only a hazard should emergency vehicles need to get down to that area, but it an annovance to residents who are having their driveways blocked and laneways

Pleasant Beach was never meant for a great deal of use by a large number of people," said

Ward 4 Coun, Barbara Butters, She said the beach is geared toward residents and people who are camping at Pleasant Beach Campground just down

has ensued from an influx of

sides of the road all over the place," she said of a recent day. It was a zoo for the folks who live there. It was a zoo for anyone trying to get down there, and then add to that the garbage

their trash in the bins. Butters said recycle trucks

She described the chaos that

people as a "zoo: "They literally were on both

Niagara Region had put recycle bins along the road near the beach for residents to use for recycle day pickup, but the end result has been beachgoers throwing all of

can't pick that up because it has been contaminated. For Zwaagstra, the garbage is one of the higgest issues the heach entrance which can



Residents living around Pleasant Beach in Port Colborne have been having numerous issues with visitors parking where they shouldn't be. They attended city council to try to get help and council has decided to crack down on illegal parking in that area

"I own the restaurant," she said. "With my beautiful deck and everybody sits out there and looks at a garbage dump all week"

A portable toilet at the mouth of the beach isn't

much better. She said on top of using it

for a bathroom, people throw garbage in there, too. She wants it taken out and said if there's going to be a public beach, it needs to have the proper facilities.

Butters said instead of Pleasant Beach, people should head to Nickel or Centennial

beaches which are also in Port Colborne and much better equipped for large numbers of people.

"We want (people) to come and visit Port Colborne, but we want them in the right place that they're going to enjoy the experience

To curb the problems at Pleasant Beach, though, the portable toilet is being removed, the bins are being removed and parking fines are increasing along Pleasant Beach Road.

barton@postmedia.com

Percy the calf goes home; reunites with family

Postmedia Network

Percy the calf has been reunited with his mom.

The orphaned Charolais

calf was found near Concession Road 2 by engineers at a Nanticoke refinery. The calf still had his umbilical cord attached

nited immediately. So it was

Tammy Gaboury, the animal care manager at the Welland and District Humane Society, said the owner of the calf was identified and the calf has gone to join his

"He made the trip down to us yesterday along with the mother so they could be reua pretty happy occasion. She was bawling pretty loudly when she realized her baby was close by," Gaboury said. Gaboury said it was important to reunite the two as soon as possible to insure

the calf would be healthy. She said although the supplement milk is sufficient, it doesn't compare to the nutri-

Gaboury said the mother would also start grieving the loss of her calf soon after the separation. Animals tend to develop bonds with each

other The farmer asked not to be named due to harassing phone calls received after the Tribune's initial article farmers received phone calls from animal activists shaming the cattle farming industry. Gaboury said the farmer still doesn't know how the mother escaped the property. "It is a large chunk of land.

was published about the calf.

Gaboury said a number of

so he is working to locate where she could have escaped. Chances are she was spooked by something where she gave birth to the baby ... where she went running to take cover ... which is how he ended up by himself," Gaboury said. Percy and his mother are

part of the farmer's breeding etnek

Mallenberg@postmedia.ca



LOCALNEWS

NRE gets the green light

ALLAN BENNER Postmedia Network

The Niagara Regional Exhibition will happen this year, for sure. Despite previously voting against holding a fair this year due to fund-

holding a fair this year due to funding constraints, Niagara Regional Agricultural Society board members changed their minds last Monday night.

They voted instead to take advan-

tage of nearly \$25,000 in city funding as well as from sponsors to organize a somewhat scaled down version of the 163-year-old exhibition. They also voted to hire Jane Thompson to help make it a reality, with less than a month to go before the fair is scheduled to open in midSeptember at the Niagara Street fairgrounds.

During a special city council meeting last week, councillors voted to provide \$24,641 to the agricultural society to help fund the NEE with money originally earmarked for the Niagara Food Festival, which was cancelled after that organization

went bankrupt.

The plan to save the fair was launched by board member Art Gill after he discussed the possibility of putting together the event with Thompson, who has spent more than a decade working for the food festival, the Welland Recreational Canal Corp. and other goups organizing large community

Gill, the board's co-treasurer, said Thompson wrote the city asking for funding, and he signed it and submitted it to the city of Welland on

Aug. 3.

Not knowing if the city would support the request, Gill said he submitted the letter to the city without board approval because of the

limited time remaining.

Gill said cancelling the fair was a divisive issue among board members, but after the city funding was approved the majority of board members supported the event.

The board voted by secret ballots

that were destroyed after the votes were counted. Explaining her reasons for getting involved. Thompson told board members the loss of the Niagara Food Festival followed by the cancellation of the fair created "a major void in our community."

"I'd hate to see 163 years gone," she said.

See NRE on page 19





Niagara Regional Agricultural Society co-treasurer Art Gill climbs aboard a tractor at the fairgrounds, preparing for an upcoming event. He teamed up with event organizer Jane Thompson to save this year's Niagara Regional Exhibition, approved by the board.





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welland.tribune@sunmedia.ca POSTMEDIA John Tobon, Group Advertising Director Peter Conradi, Managing Editor

Trading a notepad for controls of a plane



When I started my day on Saturday the last thing I thought I'd be doing was flying a plane, but somehow I ended up doing just that. I headed out to do my

reporter thing for the annual COPA (Canadian Owners and Pilots Association) Kids Flight Day at Niagara Central Dorothy Rungeling Airport. Children who had never been in a plane before got to take a trip up for free

It all started off as it usuwhat to take photos of.

I found who I needed to talk to, pilot of about 40 years Peter Van Caulart. It all started off normal, me asking a hundred questions and Van Caulart answering them. He said he enjoyed being part of the event because he wanted to share the joy of flying with the next generation of pilots.

"I've flown hundreds of kids and probably seven or eight of them turned into airline pilots and another six or seven into Air Force pilots," Van Caulart said.

He then began selling me on the awesome experience of being in a small plane. He said it is completely different from flying in a commercialsized plane.

'The world opens up below you and it's like 'Oh my god." he said.

At that point I didn't know how right he was, but I was soon to find out. After the interview he asked if I'd ever been in a small plane. I said no. With a smile on his face

he said, "You want to go up?" I said I couldn't, I have to work, and you know I get motion sickness. Which he quickly promised me I wouldn't get sick.

So with a little convincing - OK, a lot of convincing I agreed to go for a ride. But first I wanted to see how others had enjoyed their trip. There were families with

children from ages eight to 17 taking turns in small aircraft. They each took off with a trained pilot to experience the joys of being in a plane at however many hundreds of feet above the ground. Once they got back down to earth they received certificates for participation. They were all thrilled about the day's adventure, showing off their certificates to my camera as I

One of the girls I talked to, Keyonna Cichocki, 10, from Welland said she didn't like heights and she threw up. ally does, sussing out the sit-uation — who to talk to and I thought, "See, I knew I'd get motion sickness."

snanned photos

I finish talking to the rest of the group, who all loved the flights and didn't get motion sickness. I walked over to Van Caulart and let him know one of the young girls was sick. He looked at me and said we're

doing this - I had no choice. Everything was going well, he sbowed me all the things I needed to know for an emergency. He told me the doors don't open if we go down. I asked about a parachute, and

he answered matter of fact that there are none. "Great," I thought, We lined up on the runway

and took off - the smoothest takeoff I've ever experienced in my life, and I've been on probably about two dozen

planes or more. I know you're probably thinking, "Hold on, you've been on how many planes

and you're nervous? I've never been on a small plane, the kind with four seats and a window that opens. It was nerve-wracking thinking about it, but once we were up above the clouds, what

an awe inspiring moment complete freedom. I could see for miles and the Lake Erie shoreline was



Pilot Peter Van Caulart takes a selfie of himself and Tribune reporter Michelle Allenberg as she flies a plane on Saturday afternoon.

stunning, almost crystal clear. For a moment I forgot where I was, and I thought about the similarities the lake seemed to have with the Caribbean Sea or the waters of Barce. lona, Spain from up here. Just as I was taking in the

joys of flying, which I always have when in a jumbo jet, Van Caulart turned to me "Take the controls," he

"Uh. I don't think you want me to," I said with a nervous

I thought, "Doesn't he know I'll probably end up crashing us into the deep blue?" But he didn't seem concerned as he slyly built my confidence enough for me to take the controls. First by having me hold the secand set of controls while he was still holding his controls,

then by taking his hands off and pointing out I was flying. At first I was just holding on, keeping us flying straight, but then he asked me to turn. He pointed at a small island and started talking to me about the lighthouse on the Island, I forgot for a moment I was flying and without even knowing I turned towards the

"See, you're turning just by looking, it's easy," he said to

Just as I started to get comfortable again, he asked me to turn the other way. The plane started to tilt with more of an angle, which made me nervous again.

"Seriously, I'm going to crash us," I thought. But again I turn and things level out. I pull the control toward me and we start to gain altitude. I push the control away from me and we

start to level out. I flew for about 10 minutes or so by myself, and it felt fantastic - the most thrilling thing I've done in ages. And I think I've caught the flying

Jim Morrison, member of Canadian Owners and Pilots Association, talks to a group of children about different types of planes and the history of flight.

bug, because once we landed experience I wanted to do it again. Being able to look through the windows and see all around you for miles and miles is such an amazing

All the children who had the chance to fly on Saturday are truly lucky.

PHOTOS BY NICHELLE ALLENBERG/POSTMEDIA NETWO

MAllenberg@oostmedia.com

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Tel: 905-732-2414 Fax: 905-732-3660

welland.tribune@sunmedia.ca John Tobon, Group Advertising Director Peter Conradi, Managing Editor



The great commission and the great commandment

PASTOR GARY TOMIUCK Wainfleet Congregation Christian Church

Protestant liberals especially focus on social action to the neglect of the spiritual Many Christians divide dimension. Conservatives the great commission from sometimes exalt the spiritual

Loving your neighhour as yourself comprises both dimensions - in the absolute eternal sense the spirit

familiar story of the Prodigal Son (Lk 15:11-32) the vounger son demands his share of the estate, sets off for a distant country, spends his money in wild living, a severe famine sets in and he finds himself starving to death The key words are found

in Luke 15 verse 17. He Came To His Senses. 1. He repents: He has a true awakening to his dire condition. This is further substantiated by the fact that he returns to his Father. This is a change of mind and a change of direction. This is also a 180 degree turn around in that he first fled

away from his father now

he returns to him. His sin

is against heaven and his father who represents God in this parable. All sin affects others, but is ultimately sin against God. Was the father of the prodigal son and the Heavenly Father of Christians reluc-

tant to forgive? No, the father ran. In that culture fathers would never run. But he threw tradition to the wind, gathered up his rohe and ran as fast as his old and twisted limbs would carry him. Filled with compassion he kissed his son over and over again (Lk 15

gather his words to ask for forgiveness, the father has a rohe, a ring and sandals for his sons feet. This was a special rohe for special occasions, the ring was a special signet ring and the sandals represented his restoration to son-ship as only claves went harefoot

vs 21). Before the son could

A fat calf is provided and a great celebration follows. Why? "For this son of mine was dead and is now alive again, he was lost and is found," (Lk vs 24). This is salvation in a nutebell

Upon true repentance of sin no matter how great, the sinner is clothed in a special robe which represents the righteousness of Christ. They are also described as being a signet ring of God's finger. This denotes ownership and helonging to God as His special possession. There is also eternal security shown here as no one can remove it from God's hand.

A great celebration will result at the supper of the lamh which will take place in glory hecause the heliever who was once dead is alive and who was lost is now The parable of the good

Samaritan provides us with the much needed Bihlical balance. If the parable of the prodigal son stresses forgiveness then the parable of the good Samaritan highlights social action. In the latter parable good deeds are demonstrated in neighhourly love even in spite of the fact this neighbour or any neighbour might not receive Christ as Lord of their lives

Hopefully they will receive Christ as Lord and Saviour. hut if not they still have dignity being made in the image of God. Christ said in Matthew 25:35-40 "for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, you clothed me and visited me ... When you did it to one of the least of my brothers you did it to me." In this parable of the good

Samaritan a man is heaten up, half dead and laying on a dirt road (Lk10:32-35), Everyone passed by him except the good Samaritan. He took pity and had compassion for him. He poured oil and wine onto his wounds, the wine being an antisentic to prevent infection and the oil was used to soothe the skin and hring relief from pain.

He then put the man on his donkey hecause of his wounds and the Samaritan would have walked heside the man on the donkey, then in verse 35 he took out two silver coins (which would have covered three to four weeks of room and board) and said to the innkeener "look after him and when I return I will reimburse you for any additional expenses." Who was the neighbour?

The one who had mercy on him. Then go and do likewise vs 36-37

The great commission is ultimate the great commandment is also important for all Christians were once prodigals separated from God and now by lip and life they want others to be reconciled to Christ. They are also called and commanded to he good Samaritans doing good to others in the name of Christ We must follow hoth the

great commandment and the great commission.









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'BILLY JOEL & THE PIANO MEN" SHOW COMES TO PORT COLBORNE



Fans of Billy Joel, Elton John, Burton Lewis, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Ray are in for a treat when "Billy Joel and even the flamboyant Liberace. and The Piano Men" comes to the Roselawn Theatre for a special one night only performance on Saturday September 24 at 8pm. Starring piano-wizard and vocalist extraordinaire Bruce Tournay, this unique theatrical performance combines live music with humour, costumes, and interesting stories about the songs and performers Tickets to see "Billy Joel and the being highlighted.

True to the shows name, the "Piano Men" performance features a wide variety of other piano greats including Jerry Lee seats for this incredible show!

Cummings and other piano greats Charles, Nat King Cole, Floyd Kramer

Backed by the amazing Memphis Cats band, song highlights include "Crocodile Rock" "Great Balls of Fire" "My Own Way To Rock" "Georgia" "It's Still Rock and Roll To Me" "Blueberry Hill" and of course, Billy Joel's signature song "Piano Man" amongst many other classic piano songs.

Piano Men" at the Roselawn Theatre on Saturday September 24 at 8pm are on sale now, value-priced at only \$32 all inclusive, available at musical styles from a diverse range of the theatre box office, 296 Fielden

piano legends. In addition to Billy Joel, Avenue in Port Colborne or by Elton John, and Burton Cummings, calling the box office at 905-834-7572. Tournay will perform songs from Get your tickets early to get the best



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LOCALNEW

New lives for dogs on death row

LAURA BARTON Postmedia Network

One Niagara non-profit is helping dogs in high-kill shelters find their forever homes

Niagara Dog Rescue, a fully volunteer-run organization, seeks out does in United States kill shelters and offers them a chance at life on this side of the border.

Many of the dogs they rescue are days, sometimes only hours, from being put down because no home could be found for them.

"We do rescue some from Canada as well," said volunteer Beth Poulin. "We're partnering with a couple of organizations that are dealing with ... reservations and culling of dogs

The organization, which started in 2014, is all about the canines. Volunteer Jennifer Cormier said she does it for the love of the dogs and ensuring they find the best home pos-

There is an extensive application process a person has to go through before they can call one of the rescue dogs their own. There's an interview process, reference check and meetand-greets to make sure everyone is a good fit.

"(People) fall in love with this picture of the dog and the image they think the dog is like," Poulin said. "They insist. and they answer yes to every question that we ask them and they answer every question the way they think we want. And then the dog is not what they've worked up in their head."

Sometimes people and dogs just don't mesh well, no matter how cute they look in a photograph. It's all about determining each individual personal-

Cormier said she had an adoptee come to a meet-and-greet and spend two hours with the dog before making the decision. In this person's case, she was seeing how well the dog might do as a therapy animal.

Some of the dogs have ended up as a part of Therapy Tails' Niagara branch, too.

Poulin laughed and said Niagara Dog Rescue is taking over the region.

See DOGS on page 9



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Niagara Dog **Rescue helping** dogs on both sides of the border

DOGS from page 8 In some ways it is, considering a recent rise in popularity. Over the summer, the volunteers have seen up to

15 applications a day for the pooches. "People need to be patient with us," said Ashley Soper, who deals with communi-

Many have sent frustrated e-mails wondering what's taking so long, but what the group would like people to remember is they're all vol-

Each emphasized they could use more manpower. There are many ways a person could help out, such as dealing with applications, the interview process or

transportation. Because the dogs are coming in from the U.S., it means having someone who can pick them up at the border

Volunteer Candice Shute said, "You don't need to he You don't need to be from Niagara to be a foster or even to be a volunteer."

Volunteer Candice Shute from Niagara to he a foster or even to he a volunteer." The organization doesn't have a home base, so everything is spread out.

As a non-profit, the group relies on fundraisers and donations to help make what they do possible.

Anyone who would like to get in touch with them to volunteer, foster or adopt can visit www.niagaradogrescue.org. They are also available on most social media platforms.

lbarton@postmedia.com

Chorus Niagara looking for singers

coming new singers for its 2016-17 season. The 100-voice ensemble is

currently holding auditions on an individual hasis, hoping to complete its roster in time for weekly rehearsals starting in September. Rehearsals take place Monday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. with artistic director Robert Cooper.

Additional rehearsals occur prior to concerts and other performance appear-

Chorus Niagara is wel- in Partridge Hall at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, and as a guest of other arts organizations such as the Niagara Symphony Orchestra.

Being sought are singers with a strong level of musicianship, good vocal technique and flexibility, and a desire to be challenged musically in an ensemble environment.

To audition, contact Lolly Pettigrew at 905-945-0364 or e-mail wwoden@vaxxine. com, or the Chorus Niagara The group performs office at admin@hecon.org.



Niagara Dog Rescue volunteers are helping dogs escape high kill shelters in the United States and find loving homes here in Canada. Pictured here are some of the volunteers with a mix of their own dogs. Top row, from left: Ashley Soper, Jennifer Cormier and Mike Mulvihill. Bottom row, from left: Cheryl Curcio, Beth Poulin, Samantha Janjac and Candice Chute.



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AVIS DE LA COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE DE L'ONTARIO AUX CLIENTS DE CANADIAN NIAGARA POWER INC.

Canadian Niagara Power Inc. a déposé une requête en vue de hausser ses tarifs de distribution d'électricité.

Soyez mieux renseigné. Donnez votre opinion.

Canadian Niagara Power inc. a déposé une requête auprès de la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario en vue de hausser ses frais d'environ 4,56 \$ par mois pour le consommateur résidentiel moyen à compter du 1st janvier 2017. D'autres clients, dont des entreprises, pourraient aussi être touchés,

LA COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE DE L'ONTARIO TIENDRA DES RENCONTRES COMMUNAUTAIRES

- La Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario (CEO) tiendra des rencontres communautaires qui vous permettront de/d': en apprendre davantage sur la demande de modification des frais introduite par Canadian Niagara Power;
 - découvrir comment la CEO entend examiner cette requête; partager vos commentaires au suiet de la requête introduite auprès de la CEO.

Clients de Fort Erie et de Port Colborne

Date et heure : Le mardi 13 septembre 2016 à 18 h 30 (ouverture des portes à 18 h) Lieu: Vale Health and Wellness Centre, salle Golden Puck, 550, rue Elizabeth, Port Colborne (Ontario)

Date et heure : Le mercredi 14 septembre 2016 à 18 h 30 (ouverture des portes à 18 h)

Lieu: Légion royale canadienne, filiale 92, 55, rue King E, Gananoque (Ontario)

LA COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE DE L'ONTARIO TIENDRA UNE AUDIENCE PUBLIQUE La Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario (CEO) tiendra une audience publique en vue d'examiner la requête de Canadian Niagara Power, Elle interrogera l'entreprise sur son besoin de hausser ses frais. Elle entendra également les arguments des personnes et des groupes qui représentent les clients de Canadian Niagara Power. Au terme de cette audience, la CEO décidera de la hausse qu'elle accordera, le cas échéant.

Les distributeurs comme Canadian Niagara Power demandent en général un examen complet de leurs frais tous les cing ans. Tous les changements de frais pour les années intermédiaires sont faits par l'application d'une formule liée à l'inflation et à d'autres facteurs destinés à promouvoir l'efficacité, il est possible que vous ne receviez aucun avis des changements de frais mis en place par l'application de cette formule. La CEO est un organisme public indépendant et impartial. Elle rend des décisions qui servent l'intérêt public. Son but est de promouvoir un secteur d'énergie viable et rentable financièrement qui vous offre des services énergétiques fiables à un coût raisonnable.

SOYEZ RENSEIGNÉ ET DONNEZ VOTRE OPINION

Vous avez le droit de recevoir des renseignements concernant cette requête et de participer au processus.

- · Vous pouvez consulter la requête de Canadian Niagara Power sur le site de la CEO.
- Vous pouvez présenter une lettre de commentaires qui sera examinée durant l'audience.
- . Vous pouvez participer activement à l'audience (à titre d'intervenant). Inscrivez-vous d'icl le 6 septembre 2016 ou l'audience sera entamée sans votre participation et vous ne recevrez aucun autre avis concernant cette instance.
- Vous pourrez passer en revue la décision rendue par la CEO et ses justifications sur notre site Web, à la fin du processus.

SOYEZ MIELIX RENSEIGNÉ

Les frais proposés concernent les services de distribution de Canadian Niagara Power. Ils font partie des frais de livraison, l'un des cinq éléments figurant sur votre facture d'électricité. Le numéro de ce dossier est EB-2016-0061. Pour en savoir plus sur cette audience, sur les démarches à suivre pour présenter des lettres ou pour devenir un intervenant, ou encore pour accèder aux documents concernant ce dossier. veuillez sélectionner le numéro de dossier EB-2016-0061 dans la liste publiée sur le site Web de la CEO : www.ontarioenergyboard.ca/notice. Vous pouvez également adresser vos questions à notre centre de relations aux consommateurs, au 1 877 632-2727.

AUDIENCE ORALE OU ÉCRITE

Il existe deux types d'audience à la CEO ; orale et écrite. Canadian Niagara Power a déposé une requête d'audience écrite. La CEO étudie actuellement cette requête. Si vous croyez qu'une audience crale doit avoir lieu, vous pouvez écrire à la CEO pour expliquer pourquoi au plus tard le 6 septembre 2016.

Si vous présentez une lettre de commentaires, votre nom et le contenu des documents que vous allez déposer auprès de la CEO seront versés au dossier public et publiés sur le site Web de la CEO. Toutefois, votre numéro de téléphone, votre adresse personnelle et votre adresse courriel seront terus confidentiels. Si vous êtes une entreprise, tous vos renseignements demeureront accessibles au public. Si vous faites une requête de statut d'intervenant, tous vos renseignements seront du domaine public.

Cette audience sera tenue en vertu de l'article 78 de la Loi de 1998 sur la Commission de l'énergie de l'Ontario. L.O. 1998 chap.15 (annexe B).



Agencies beef up to meet refugee demands

ALLAN BENNER Postmedia Network

Niagara's immigration agencies are ramping up staffing to cope with the demand as the number of Syrian refugees arriving continues to grow.

Jeff Burch, the executive director from the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, said the St. Catharines-based agency is already working with about 65 families, or 250 individuals, and has applied for federal funding to hire additional staff as more refugees are expected to arrive

"We're supplementing our staff, especially for helping people with settlements and youth programming, and some extra language instruction," he said.

We're anticipating that we're going to continue to be busy for some time."

Burch said he's not certain about the number of staff the Folk Arts Centre will be permitted to recruit, adding he will have a better idea in Sep-

tember.

While the Folk Arts Centre is working with the lion's share of Niagara's refugees so far, Welland Heritage Council and Multicultural Centre executive director Janet Madume said her organization faces an increasing demand as well.

See AGENCIES on page 11



At least 300 Syrian arrivals already in Niagara: Rurch

AGENCIES from page 10

The Welland-based immigration agency has applied

for funding for a few additional staff members, too. Madume said the Multicultural Centre hopes to hire 1.5 full-time equivalent staff members to help with the influx of refugees.

"We have a few proposals that have gone out and I'm just waiting for a response," she said, adding she expects to learn how many more staff she can hire in the next two weeks.

Although the arrival of refugees was a "bit of a media sensation for a while," Burch said, the refu-

gees continue to arrive. This is a multi-year project," he said, "We have a close relationship with the Armenian community and that's something that makes our community somewhat unique. We expect we'll have a steady flow of Arme-

nian Syrians Burch said there are already substantially more Syrian refugees in Niagara

than previously estimated. When privately sponsored refugee families in communities from throughout Niagara are added up, "I'm pretty confident in saying 300 is a pretty conservative

estimate," he said. ABenner@gostmedia.com

Twitter: @ahenner1



ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF CANADIAN NIAGARA POWER INC.

Canadian Niagara Power Inc. has applied to raise its electricity distribution rates.

Learn more. Have your say.

Canadian Niagara Power Inc. has applied to the Ontario Energy Board to increase the amount it charges by \$4.56 each month for the typical residential customer beginning on January 1, 2017. Other customers, including businesses, may be affected as well.

THE ONTARIO ENERGY BOARD IS HOLDING COMMUNITY MEETINGS.

- The Ontario Energy Board (OEB) is hosting community meetings so that you can:
 - . Learn more about Canadian Niagara Power's costs and rate application . Find out how the OEB will review the application · Get involved and provide your comments about the application to the OEB

For Fort Erie and Port Colborne Customers

When: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

Where: Vale Health and Wellness Centre, Golden Puck Room, 550 Elizabeth St., Port Colborne, Ontario.

For Gananoque Customers

When: Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. (Doors open at 6 p.m.)

Where: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, 55 King St. E., Gananogue, Ontario,

THE ONTARIO ENERGY ROARD IS HOLDING A PURLIC HEARING

The OEB will hold a public hearing to consider Canadian Niagara Power's request. We will question the company on its case for a rate increase. We will also hear arguments from individuals and from groups that represent Canadian Niagara Power customers. At the end of this hearing, the OEB will decide what, if any, increase will be allowed.

Distributors such as Canadian Niagara Power typically apply for a full review of their rates every five years. Any rate changes for the years in between are made by applying a formula that is tied to inflation and other factors intended to promote efficiency. You may not get notice of future rate changes made by applying the formula.

The OEB is an independent and impartial public agency. We make decisions that serve the public interest. Our goal is to promote a financially viable and efficient energy sector that provides you with reliable energy services at a reasonable cost.

BE INFORMED AND HAVE YOUR SAY

- You have the right to information regarding this application and to be involved in the process. . You can review Canadian Niagara Power's application on the OEB's website now
- . You can file a letter with your comments, which will be considered during the hearing.
- . You can become an active participant (called an intervenor). Apply by September 6, 2016 or the hearing will go ahead without you and you will not receive any further notice of the proceeding.
- · At the end of the process, you can review the OEB's decision and its reasons on our website.

LEARN MORE

These proposed charges relate to Canadian Niagara Power's distribution services. They make up part of the Delivery line - one of the five line items on your bill. Our file number for this case is EB-2016-0061. To learn more about this hearing, find instructions on how to file letters or become an intervenor, or to access any document related to this case, please select the file number EB-2016-0061 from the list on the OEB website: www.ontarjoenergyboard.ca/notice. You can also phone our Consumer Relations Centre at 1-877-632-2727 with any questions.

ORAL VS. WRITTEN HEARINGS

There are two types of OEB hearings - oral and written. Canadian Niagara Power has applied for a written hearing. The OEB is considering this request. If you think an oral hearing is needed, you can write to the OEB to explain why by September 6, 2016. PRIVACY

If you write a letter of comment, your name and the content of your letter or the documents you file with the OEB will be put on the public record and the OEB website. However, your personal telephone number, home address and email address will be removed. If you are a business, all your information will remain public. If you apply to become an intervenor, all information will be public.

This rate hearing will be held under section 78 of the Ontario Energy Board Act, 1998, S.O. 1998 c.15 (Schedule B),





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LOCALNEWS

Canadians earn praise for coming to aid of Syrian refugees

TONY RICCIUTO Postmedia Network

Syrian refugee families were welcomed with open arms, and an introduction to hockey, Saturday afternoon at the Gale Centre in Niagara

"What you guys are doing here in the Niagara Peninsula is amazing— it's a real community effort here with the mayor and the bishop involved and you should be lauded," said Ed Wechli, a businessman from Pittsburgh who is involved with helping Syrian refugee families that have filed for asylum in the United States. Wechli. who owns a cof-

fee company, received a call about two years ago to see if he could help a Syrian family get to safery. He assisted that family getting settled and the following year he was asked if he could help other family members.

There was no way, but I was able to find a path into Ganada where we could try and get them some support. I concared and said we are supported to the said was and said we are supported to the said was an get the money if the churches can sponsor the families and from that it just mush-roomed, said Weehli, who was in attendance on Saturday to meet some of the families that have been sponsored.

"We don't have this same avenue in the United States," he said.

"We are bringing in refugees, but the number is very small compared to what Canada is doing. It's a horrible situation in Syria, people are being shot and beheaded and it's the worst situation since the Second World War," sald Wechli, who encourages residents to get involved and help in any way possible.

Activities at the Gale Centre began with the puck being dropped for a fun hockey game with teams comprised of clergy and parishioners from the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Catharines.

Following the game, a reception was hosted by the Catholic Women's League, when residents had an opportunity to meet the refugee families. Bishop Gerard Bergie, of

history detrain bergie, or the Diocese of St. Catharines, later presided at the regularly scheduled mass at Our Lady of the Scapular Church on Thorold Stone Road. That was followed by a barbecue on the church grounds that was hosted by members of the Holy Name Society.

The bishop said the diocese is working hard to try and sponsor more families, but it takes a lot of patience because the process involves a great deal of delay, so it's important to keep the momentum

"We have about four famillies and we are expecting about 12 more. We have about 20 parishes involved in helping refugees. Some are sponsoring on their own and others are joining together because they are small and there is a cost involved," said

"I would say close to half of our parishes are involved somehow. It's certainly a big cultural change for many of them and the weather is also a big thing because most of them arrived in the warmer weather and they will have to learn to deal with a Canadian winter. It's been a time of adjustment for everybody."

See REFUGEES on page 22



Excited to be in Canada, these children from Syrian refugee families had a chance to watch their first hockey game.

































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Cairns gets bail on historic sex charges

BILL SAWCHUK Poetmedia Network

Police have charged a prominent St. Catharines businessman and philanthropist with 24 historical sex offences. Officers arrested Jeffrey Cairns, 60, last

Tuesday after an investigation involving allegations of child sex offences.

Cairns was charged with eight counts of sexual assault, eight counts of sexual interference and eight counts of invitation to

sexual touching. Niagara Regional Police said there is Just one victim. Calms is president of Charlesway Corp. Ltd., a private investment firm based in St. Catharines, and was a member of Brock University's board of trustees.

An NRP spokesperson said police had nothing further to add at this time. A call to the family home went unan-

swered.
After a hearing last Wednesday, Cairns
was released on \$10,000 bail with a
number of conditions, including that he
reside at the family cottage or the home of
a business associate and friend. He is prohibited from visiting public pools, parks,
playgrounds, schoolyards or community
centres and from being in the company of

children under the age of 16.
His lawyer, David Kerr, said he had no comment as he left the courthouse.

Jim Asselstine, managing director and chief executive officer at Charlesway Corp., was in the courtroom last Wednesday alongside Cairns' wife, but said he couldn't comment.

Brock University spokesman Dan Dakin said Cairns had "resigned from the Brock University board of trustees, effective August 17, 2016."

Reached at the Ontario Association of Municipalities conference in Windsor last Tuesday, Mayor Walter Sendzik said he wasn't aware of the arrest and wasn't in a position to offer com-

ment.
The Cairns family is prominent in St.
Catharines and known for their philanthropic endeavours. They have made significant con-

tributions to Niagara organizations over the years, and Calms' father, Roy, who died in 2011, donated \$6

million to Brock in 2010.
Jeffrey Cairns made a \$500,000 donation to the city's recently opened \$60-million performing arts centre. The Cairns Recital Hall is a 300-seat venue and rehearsal space in the venue.

According to his LinkedIn profile, Carins is also a director of the following organizations: St. John Ambulance Niagura Falis branch, Niagara Academic and Health Sciences Advisory Council, Lincoln & Welland Regiment Foundation, the Lincoln and Welland Regiment Museum and the advisory panel to the minister of Canadian heritsge.

He was also the former commanding officer of the Lincoln & Welland Regiment. A spokesman at National Defence said they wouldn't comment on an issue that is before the courts and that Cairns was retired from the military.

was retired from the military.

Cairns was arrested last Tuesday and held in custody before his bail hearing last Wednesday at the Robert S. K. Welch Courthouse.

in Investigators believe there may be additional victims who have not yet come forward. They ask anyone with information to contact Det. Mike Ryan or Det. Sarah Rose of the NRP's sexual assault unit.

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Board approves NRE for this year

NRE from page 3

Although the board planned to bring the fair back for 2017 for Canada's 150th anniversary. Thompson said once events are cancelled for a year they often

"Everyone's entitled to their opinion. I get it," she said. "But I've worked in the event world for a long time, and once it's gone in the event world, it's normally lost."

Board members had a few concerns about the plan, including ensuring the agricultural component of the event remains at the forefront, while raising additional money.

there is enough support for the event in the community to cover

nity will step up to the plate,"

One Welland company, for instance, has already committed \$5,000 to the exhibition. and Thompson said she has been in contact with other area businesses interested in getting

involved She said event sponsorships usually average between \$50,000 and \$80,000, plus in-kind serv-

"There are a ton of sponsors that would come on board," she sald "When it comes to sponsor-

ships, I know I can do it and then some."

Board member Bill Foote

zolo Sr.) and Art, and people like that have been putting something like this into the community, and then for one reason or another we're too proud or too stupld not to take advantage of

the resources that are available Gill told board members if they did not hold a fair this year. "I guarantee you'll never get

another dime out of the city."

In an interview, Gill said he has faith in Thompson's ability to organize large events

"I knew she could do the job." he said. Details about this year's NRE

are being finalized and will be









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LOCALNEWS

Volunteers win praise at dragon boat championship

Postmedia Network

After a busy few days, the 2016 Canadian Dragon Boat Championship came to an end Sunday in Welland.

Chloe Greenhalgh, executive director of Dragon Boat Canada, said the three days at the Welland International Flatwater Centre have been "excellent." She said the weather was great, the athletes had a great time and the volunteers have made the event a success. "They (volunteers) just keep smiling and working harder

and better every year. They so know their jobs, and their commitment to the level of excellence on behalf of the city of Welland is outstanding. They really, really care and it's outstanding," Greenhalgh said. What makes Welland International Flatwater Centre such a great venue for Greenhalph is everything the onganizers need is available. At other locations she's held events organizers have had to build most struc-

tures and courses from scratch. "It's turnkey, so we don't have to rent things or build things ... To be here where everything is turnkey, we don't have to drop our own race course, all those kinds of things," Greenhalgh

She said what makes nationals great for communities is people come from all over not only athletes, but also vendors. Nationals expose people to new places and different festivals.

event. Next year will be a raceoff for crews to be chosen to go to the world championships in 2018, which will be held in Hungry.

Anyone from the first qualifier is able to qualify for the 2018 world championships, whether they win or not. The only requirement to qualify for the world's is to participate in two qualifier events

"This is the first step in the nath, but we do not eliminate anyone. Everybody is welcome to try a hand and win a snot." Results from the races can be found at discresults.ca.



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LOCALNEWS

Syrian refugees watch their first hockey game

Niagara Falls Mayor lim Diodati said we were all immigrants at one time or another and someone had

"These are families and the parents are just looking for something that is best for their kids. They want them to have a safe and enriched opportunity to start over again," he

to welcome us.

to support people who come from a terrible war zone area. They will enrich Canada and make it even a better place." The mayor said Saturday's event

was all about helping to raise money and awareness so that these families can get settled and become contributing members of our community "When you meet some of the

people they are so grateful and feel like they have won the lottery of life because they can take their kids and put them in a safe, wonderful country," said Diodati.

"When they shake your hand they thank you from the bottom of their hearts for having this opportunity for their family."

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